

Post 11/11/95

Barbara Bush's Undercover Book Change

Hawk-eyed readers of former first lady **Barbara Bush's** hardcover and paperback versions of her auto-bio will notice a difference between them. But no one close to Mrs. Bush will say publicly whether the change resulted from a \$4 million libel suit filed against her by an ex-spy.

The 1994 version of "Barbara Bush: A Memoir" states that CIA station chief **Richard Welch** was killed in Athens in 1975 after his cover was blown "by a traitorous, tell-all book written by former CIA agent **Philip Agee**." The 1995 paperback version links Welch's murder to the "publication of his CIA affiliation in Counter-Spy, a notorious anti-CIA publication." Agee is not mentioned.

Why the change? Because of the suit filed in D.C. Superior Court in September against Mrs. Bush, publisher **Simon and Schuster** and its **Scribner** imprint, according to a well-placed source.

"The change will help the lawsuit because it's pretty much of an admission that there was no basis for the first statement," said Agee lawyer **Lynn Bernabei**.

No one in the Bush camp is talking, because the suit is pending. It's now in U.S. District Court, where Mrs. Bush's



ASSOCIATED PRESS

lawyers had it moved. Ironically, the federal case went to Judge **Stanley Sporkin**, a former CIA general counsel, who recused himself. A new judge now has it, but Bernabei said she'll move to have it sent back to Superior Court.

Simon and Schuster spokesman **Anthony Giangola** confirmed the obvious—that the change was made.

Bush, making a slight revision—and making lawyers for Agee (below in 1987) very happy.



David Kaye, general counsel for **St. Martin's Press**, which published the paperback, said, "It's up to [Simon and Schuster] to supply the text to us. They did the editorial work on the book." Bush spokesman **Jim McGrath** in Houston had a "no comment," noting "our policy here is minimum information given with maximum politeness."